delegates and discussions in regard to Sericulture and Reeling, Trade in raw silk, Trade in silk waste, Trade in thrown silk, Weaving, Trade in silk fabrics, silk furnishing, Dyeing, printing and finishing of silk, Technology and Research.

(c) to (e) Government have announced a National Textile Policy which lists steps in order to achieve international standard in all varieties of silk. The steps include the following five:—

i. Improving Research & Development and the effective transfer of technology at all stages;

ii. Considerably improving the production of non-mulberry varieties of silk;

iii. Augmenting efforts for the spread of bivoltine sericulture;

iv. Encouraging clustering of activities of reeling and weaving and strengthen linkages between the producers and industry;

v. Periodically reviewing the import policy for raw silk taking into account the balanced interests of the sericulturists as well as export manufacturers.

The X Five Year Plan has been drawn up to give effect to the above steps.

Decline in the export of man-made textiles

1890. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of man-made textile have been hit in recent years;

(b) if so, whether during the year 1996-97, the exports of man-made textile showed a decline of 6.5% and during the year 1998-1999, exports of these products declined by 12.5% in dollar terms;

(c) whether during April, 2001, the man-made fabric textile exports declined by 8.4 per cent as compared to the corresponding period 2000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Exports • of man-made textiles declined by 6.5% in dollar terms during the year 1996-97, however, the exports of man-made textiles increased by 14% in dollar terms during the year 1997-98. The exports of man-made textiles declined again by 12.5% during 1998-99 in dollar terms. However, in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the exports of man-made textiles increased significantly by 18.8% & 28.1% respectively in dollar terms. Again a decline of 8.4% registered during the month of April, 2001 in dollar terms as compared to the corresponding month of previous year.

(d) The slowdown in April is mainly due to general slowdown in economies of some of India's major trading partners like the US and increased competition from countries like Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, etc.

(e) The Government has taken various initiatives to increase exports including export of man-made textiles. Some of these measures are:

i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.

ii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the R.E. 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, *i.e.* apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 10 crores has also been made in R.E. 2001-02 for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter-Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted.

iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered

under TUFS, have been exteneded the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

v) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity * and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of ocrapetitive downstream textile products.

vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

vii) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

viii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route, in the textile sector with certajn exceptions.

ix) A special package of incentives for the textile sector has been announced in the Budget 2002-03.

Export of Silk

1891. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of silk exported to different countries during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and till date;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom during this period; and

(c) the details of incentive given by Government to silk producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Data interms of quantity exported country-wise is not available. The